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REVIEWS.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF TAX TITLES. By Henry Campbell Black, M.A. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. pp. lxix, 716. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing Co. 1893.

In this edition several new topics and some two thousand cases have been added; furthermore, the text has been rewritten. This not only brings the work down to date, but makes it more valuable to the profession than the first edition (1888) was. In arrangement the book retains the form of a series of sections categorically expressed, and conveniently arranged and indexed. Of course, in a question where statutes play so important a part, any book on the question must be read with the statutes close at hand. This is necessary with the book under review, since the author, where he can, states the general rule and common law of tax titles.

There is but one other treatise exclusively devoted to this subject, — Blackwell's Tax Titles, now in its fifth edition (1889).

The publishers have given good paper and type, and lead us to hope for better things from them in this line. J. C.

CODE PRACTICE IN PERSONAL ACTIONS. An Elementary Treatise upon the Practice in a Civil Action, as Governed by the Provisions of the New York Code of Civil Procedure. Prepared for the Use of Students. By James L. Bishop. pp. xxiii., 567. New York: Baker, Voorhis, & Company. 1893.

This is not to be confused with the work of Mr. J. P. Bishop, best known by his book on Contracts. Mr. James L. Bishop, our author, is also the author of "A Treatise on Insolvent Debtors," and editor of the third edition (revised) of "Burrill on Assignments."

The title fairly defines the book and its object,—a first book on practice under the New York code. It is the outcome of a course of lectures delivered at Columbia Law School, and is in effect a commentary and exposition of the code thrown into clear, readable shape, and unencumbered with many authorities. Unlike the usual aids, of one sort or another, which we have of our codes, it is not devoted alone to pleading and forms, but treats of jurisdiction, evidence, law of persons, rules of court, and the other topics of personal practice.

Written for the special class of the beginners, it ought to succeed, because it is clear and concise. And because the late cases are cited and the author's work careful, it will be useful to men in practice. It is the best work yet published on this subject. J. C.

ABBOTT'S NEW YORK DIGEST. ANNUAL, 1892; January, 1892—January, 1893. Edited by Austin Abbott. pp. xxxix, 540. New York: Diossy Law Book Company. 1893.

This digest appears in its usual form. Its substance is increased by giving with each case the citation of most of the reports and reporters in which it may be found. The editor's statement in his "Notice to the Reader" that *all* the reports and reporters in which a case may be found

have been given, is not quite accurate, for there are no references to the reports in the North Eastern Reporter of the cases in the Court of Appeals. Besides being a handy key to the statutes passed and the points decided in New York during the period covered by each number, this digest — owing to its notes, collecting references to reports of other States, to text books and periodicals — is a help to any one who is looking up the general law on a point. And the editor announces that in this number he has taken greater pains than ever with these notes. H. H. B.

NEGLECT OF IMPOSED DUTIES, CARRIERS OF PASSENGERS. By Charles A. Ray, LL.D., ex-Justice of Supreme Court of Indiana. Rochester, N.Y. The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company. 1893. 8vo. pp. lxxviii and 820.

This is the second volume of a series, the first of which was noticed in the REVIEW for December, 1891. It has both the faults and the virtues of its predecessor. It suffers as that did from its involved style and lack of clear and methodical statement of leading principles. A student who tried to gain from it a knowledge of the topic would be both wearied and confused. On the other hand, a practising lawyer who is already more or less familiar with first principles, and wants primarily a reference book, will find the work of value. The field covered is one in which cases constantly arise, and in which the multitude of authorities creates a crying need for their collection and classification in accessible form. Between two and three thousand decisions are here referred to, and a good general arrangement and careful index render it easy to ascertain the drift of opinion on any desired question. The points of all the more important decisions are given with accuracy and judgment; and this wealth of citations, while for the student it cumbrous the text, would be of material assistance in a search for authorities. In short, it is as a compendium from the digests that the book will find its place. A. D. H.

DER NICARAGUA KANAL. By Lindley M. Keasbey, Doctor der Staatswissenschaften. Strassburg: Karl J. Trübner. 1893. pp. 109.

This pamphlet is based upon an essay published by Mr. Keasbey at the time of receiving the Doctor's degree from Columbia College (1890), and entitled "The Early Diplomatic History of the Nicaragua Canal." In his subsequent studies in Strasburg this theme was enlarged upon, and published in its present form in the German language by the University of Strasburg. The pamphlet forms an excellent historical sketch, beginning with the early years of the sixteenth century, of the various projects for uniting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans by means of a canal. It shows thorough research, and will be valued as well for the facts presented as for the very full list of references given.

Mr. Keasbey is a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1888, and is now Professor of "Biblical and Social Science" in the University of Colorado. F. S.